This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a request for access to an Internet web site comprising the steps of:

intercepting a web access request from a user containing an IP address of a target web site;

directing the IP address to an authentication computer, said authentication computer comparing the behavior of a computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability, said criterion for acceptability verifying that the response capacity of said target website is greater than a threshold value;

receiving a report from said authentication computer; and

directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive.

Claim 2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:

directing an override request to said user; and

directing said web access request to said target website when said user exercises an override option.

Claim 3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:

directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive without input from said user.

Claim 4. (Original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising a step of:

comparing said IP address of said target website with a previously stored valid IP address.

Claim 5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:

comparing said IP address of said target website with a list of suspect IP addresses.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, in which said step of comparing behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability comprises comparing received data from said target website with corresponding stored data.

Claim 8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, in which said step of comparing behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability comprises sending incorrect data to said target website and comparing data received from said target website in response to said incorrect data with corresponding stored data.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising a step of:

comparing said IP address of said target website with a previously stored valid IP

address.

Claim 11. (Original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising a step of:

comparing said IP address of said target website with a list of suspect IP

addresses.

Claim 12. (Original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising a step of:

comparing behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with

a criterion for acceptability.

Claim 13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, in which said step of comparing

behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for

acceptability comprises comparing received data from said target website with

corresponding stored data.

Claim 14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, in which said step of comparing

behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for

acceptability comprises sending incorrect data to said target website and comparing data

received from said target website in response to said incorrect data with corresponding stored data.

Claim15. (Original) A method according to claim 12, in which said step of comparing behavior of the computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability comprises capacity verification that the response capacity of said target website is greater than a threshold value.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A system for <u>enabling a user browser device remote</u> ~~carrying out a method of processing a request for~~ access to an Internet web site comprising:

a first server means for intercepting a web access request from [[a]]<u>the</u> user containing an IP address of a target web site;

a second server means for directing the IP address to an authentication computer;

said user browser device [[means]] for receiving a report from said authentication computer[[;]]<u>and</u>

[[means]]for directing said web access request to said target website when said report is positive,

<u>wherein the authentication computer compares the behavior of a computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability, said criterion for acceptability verifying that the response capacity of said target website is greater than a threshold value.</u>

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 16, in which said first server means for intercepting a web access request and said second server means for directing said web access request to said target website are located within the workstation of an individual user.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 16, in which said first server means for intercepting a web access request and said second server means for directing said web access request to said target website are located centrally in a network containing a plurality of workstations of individual users.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) A computer program storage device, readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine for accessing an Internet web site, n article of manufacture in computer readable form comprising means for performing a method for operating a computer system having a program, said method comprising the steps of:

intercepting a web access request from a user containing an IP address of a target web site;

directing the IP address to an authentication computer, said authentication computer comparing the behavior of a computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability, said criterion for acceptability verifying that the response capacity of said target website is greater than a threshold value;

receiving a report from said authentication computer; and

directing said web access request to said target website when said report is

positive.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) ~~An article~~The computer program storage device

according to claim 19, further comprising a step of:

directing an override request to said user; and directing said web access request to

said target website when said user exercises an override option.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) The computer program storage device ~~An article~~

according to claim 19, further comprising a step of:

directing said web access request to said target website when said report is

positive without input from said user.

Claim 22. (Canceled)

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) A computer program storage device, readable by

machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine for

accessing an Internet web site, ~~An article of manufacture in computer readable form~~

~~comprising means for performing a method for operating a computer system having a~~

~~program,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a user the IP address of a target web site in an authentication

computer;

testing a [[aid]] target web site;

[[and]] sending a report to said user;

wherein, the step of testing a target website further includes the sub-step of comparing the behavior of a computer at said IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability, said criterion for acceptability verifying that the response capacity of said target website is greater than a threshold value.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) ~~An article~~The computer program storage device according to claim 23, wherein, the step of testing a target website further includes the sub-step of~~further comprising a step of~~:

comparing said IP address of said target website with a previously stored valid IP address.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) The computer program storage device ~~An article~~ according to claim 23, wherein, the step of testing a target website further includes the sub-step of~~further comprising a step of~~:

comparing said IP address of said target website with a list of suspect IP addresses.

Claim 26. (Canceled)

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) The computer program storage device ~~An article~~ according to claim [[26]] 23, wherein, the step of testing a target website further includes the sub-step of~~in which said step~~ of comparing behavior of the computer at said IP

address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability comprises comparing

received data from said target website with corresponding stored data.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer program storage device An article~~

according to claim 27, in which said step of comparing behavior of the computer at said

IP address of said target website with a criterion for acceptability comprises sending

incorrect data to said target website and comparing data received from said target website

in response to said incorrect data with corresponding stored data.

Claim 29. (Canceled)